

tive duty by those who supply practically all the district news ordinarily available to him.

The *Nelson Tribune* finds much fault with the provincial government. Among its recent complaints are those regarding the omission to explore the mineral areas "on the route of the G. T. P. in the north of the province," and that "now, owing to the supineness of the British Columbia government, Dr. Ells has been sent to Graham Island, where the finest coal deposits on the coast exist." Neglect is also alleged of the "unlimited areas of magnetite at the Coast." We may mention that before the foregoing was published the provincial mineralogist had already engaged a packer to accompany him into the northern country referred to. Next, we would respectfully suggest that the Report of the Minister of Mines for 1902 be looked up for Dr. Marshall's report on the coal and iron deposits of Graham Island, and as well, for the long illustrated article on "The Iron Ores of the Coast of British Columbia" (also published in pamphlet form by the Mines Department). By the way, the averment that the finest coal deposits on the coast exist on Graham Island, has a strong resemblance to a similar assertion made last year in an article from Nelson, published in New York, which made an unwarranted reference to the "impending exhaustion" of the coal on Vancouver Island, and similarly "boosted" the coal measures of Queen Charlotte Islands. It will be interesting to compare these unsupported statements with the conclusions of the expert geologists now on the coast when the latter shall make their report to the Geological Survey.

With much gratification we acknowledge the appreciation of the excellent work of the provincial Bureau of Information and the Department of Mines, Dr. H. S. Poole, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has been good enough to express to us. He has assured us that he was strongly impressed with the facilities placed at the disposal of an entire stranger to obtain information respecting the varied resources of British Columbia, not only by direct application to government departments, but as well by posters and pamphlets found in hotels. Similar facilities, he remarked, are not usually provided in eastern provinces. Here he found in easily accessible form a deal of information that in other provinces could only be gathered by much labour, and even then not in such detail as this province supplies freely. He volunteered the further statement that he "was especially struck with the promptness with which the Bureau of Mines had issued so elaborate a report within so short a time after the close of the year it covered. The thousands of miles to be travelled, the number of pages to be written, the fewness of officials to do the work, and the fact that time was found in addition to reply to very numerous enquiries from explorers, prospectors and others, were, he considered, particularly noteworthy and commendable." Perhaps those who are in the habit of repeating the parrot-like complaint as to the alleged lateness of publication of the report of the Bureau of Mines, will take note of this unsolicited

testimony of one who from experience can more adequately appreciate both the difficulties to be overcome and the good results achieved. It is a simple fact that no report of similar nature and scope is published earlier, neither in Canada, nor, as far as we have been able to ascertain, in the United States or Australia. This notwithstanding, we hope to yet see this record, creditable as it is, passed, by the issue of the report in future years at a still earlier date.

On 30th inst. the resignation of Mr. T. A. Rickard, as editor of *The Engineering and Mining Journal* New York, goes into effect. He will be succeeded in that honourable, yet responsible and arduous position, by Mr. W. R. Ingalls, mining and metallurgical engineer, of New York. When, on January 3rd, 1903, Mr. Rickard's "foreword," on assuming the editorship of that journal, the leading technical mining and engineering publication in the world, was published, it was found to contain the following inaugural pronouncement: "It will be my endeavour to maintain the paper in the forefront of technical journalism by doing as my friend, Richard P. Rothwell, did—publishing reliable information concerning current mining and metallurgical practice, written by men who are alongside the facts." The deep sense of responsibility inseparable from such an occasion did not, as it might easily have done and that without good cause for reproach, distract the new editor's attention from the important part his dead friend had taken among those who "first blazed the trail for civilization and then set it going on whirring wheels." On the contrary, he paused to accord generous recognition of the noteworthy achievements of one who more than a year previously had passed to his rest, and then set himself to do—as well, as he modestly stated his intention, but with due appreciation of past excellency, even better, as we now sincerely believe he has done. In its scientific and technical aspects *The Engineering and Mining Journal* has, we think, made distinct advances under Mr. Rickard's editorship, as too it has been much improved in regard to its general make-up and appearance. That his successor who is also a professional man of known high attainments, may advance to still higher standards, is our unfeigned good wish. We tender Mr. Ingalls hearty greeting in his new position, which we are confident he will fill with advantage to the great engineering and mining industries and credit to himself.

The representations made to the Hon. the Minister of Finance for Canada with the object of inducing the Dominion government to grant the lead bounty on all exported ores of lead, are hardly likely to meet with the response desired by those purporting to be acting in behalf of all constituting The Associated Silver-Lead Mines of British Columbia, Incorporated. It is significant that the largest producers of lead ores are taking no part in this agitation; in fact it is generally known that the St. Eugene, which has been the only mine exporting lead ore since payment of the bounty was commenced, is not seeking a renewal of the concession made last year in favour of such